

The Merit Report:

A Public Opinion Survey

INDEX

FILE

THE MERIT REPORT SURVEY TOPICS

SEPT. 22, 1981 - APRIL 6, 1982

RESULTS OF THE MERIT REPORT'S SCIENTIFICALLY PROJECTABLE NATIONWIDE SURVEYS ON THE TOPICS LISTED BELOW ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE NEWS MEDIA UPON REQUEST. CONTACT: CATHY L. LEIBER, THE MERIT REPORT, 120 PARK AVE., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017, (212) 880-3568.

I. REAGAN

Air controllers, rehiring possibility - 11/24/81
Budget cuts, second round - 10/7/81
 personally helped or hurt - 11/11/81
Budget deficit, concern over - 3/2/82
Confidence, effect of television style - 10/7/81
 in foreign affairs - 10/28/81, 3/30/82
 in solving economic problems - 12/8/81
Economic programs, personally helped or hurt - 9/22/81, 10/7/81
Foreign affairs, confidence in - 10/28/81, 3/30/82
 talks with Breshnev - 11/24/81
 change in respect for U.S. - 12/8/81
Foreign policy issues, former U.S. Presidents - 10/19/81
Issues, sensitivity toward - 2/2/82
Press coverage of - 4/6/82
Reaganomics - 2/16/82
Success as president - 3/30/82
Television style, effect on confidence - 10/7/81
Terrorists, Libyan - 12/22/81

II. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

CONGRESS

AWACS, approve/disapprove - 10/28/81
 effect on foreign policy - 11/11/81

GENERAL ISSUES

Affirmative action - 2/16/82
Air controllers strike, effect on other unions - 9/22/81
 prohibition of public employee strikes - 9/22/81
 rehiring possibility - 11/24/81

2049433612

GENERAL ISSUES (continued)

Budget cuts, second round - 10/7/81
 personally helped or hurt - 11/11/81
Budget deficit, concern over - 3/2/82
CIA, investigations - 11/24/81
 activities - 2/16/82
Economic programs, federal vs. state control - 2/16/82
ERA, approve/disapprove - 12/22/81
 aiding equality - 1/5/82
Federal defense budget - 4/6/82
Hostages, federal compensation for - 10/7/81
Intelligence agents, press disclosure of names - 4/6/82
Military draft, reinstatement of - 12/8/81
 action against evaders - 3/16/82
 likelihood of service in 1982 - 3/16/82
Nuclear war, providing shelters for - 4/6/82
 U.S. vs. USSR strength - 4/6/82
 weapons freeze - 4/6/82
Presidents, taping conversations - 3/30/82
Public transportation, importance of - 10/19/81
Supreme Court, appointment of female justice - 9/22/81
Taxes, benefits to business - 1/19/82
 exemptions for private schools - 2/2/82
 income group most favored - 3/16/82
 number of Americans who cheat - 3/16/82
Tax laws, who gets best treatment under - 1/5/82
Unemployment, compensation requirements - 11/24/81
U.S. Senators, reason for expulsion - 3/16/82
U.S. strength, Reagan influence - 3/30/82
 U.S. vs. USSR - 4/6/82

III. FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Aid, developing nations - 11/11/81
 to Poland - 12/22/81
 to El Salvador - 3/30/82
Arms limitations, USSR - 11/24/81
Assassination attempts, world leaders - 10/19/81
AWACS, approve/disapprove - 10/28/81
 effect on foreign policy - 11/11/81
Domination of foreign countries, USSR - 1/5/82
El Salvador, sending U.S. troops - 3/2/82
 effect on U.S. if overthrown - 3/22/82
 U.S. aid to - 3/30/82
 USSR and Cuban influence - 3/30/82
Foreign attack, likelihood of - 12/8/81
Jordan, sending U.S. aircraft and missiles - 3/2/82
Middle East, effect of Sadat's death - 10/19/81
 U.S. military involvement in - 10/19/81

2049433613

FOREIGN AFFAIRS (continued)

Nicaragua, USSR and Cuban influence - 3/30/82
Oil, likelihood of war over U.S. supply - 10/19/81
Patriotism, changing views - 10/28/81
Poland, economic aid - 1/5/82
 U.S. immigration quotas - 1/5/82
 USSR influence - 1/5/82, 1/19/82
Reagan, consulting with former presidents - 10/19/81
 ability - 10/28/81, 3/30/82
 talks with Brezhnev - 11/24/81
 change in allies' respect for U.S. - 12/8/81
Sadat, effect of his death on Middle East - 10/19/81
Terrorist groups, as a threat - 11/11/81
 as a threat to Reagan - 12/22/81
 control of - 2/16/82
U.S. military, strength - 10/19/81
 versus USSR - 11/24/81
USSR, arms limitations talks - 11/24/81
 Reagan/Brezhnev talks - 11/24/81
 versus U.S. strength - 11/24/81, 4/6/82
 domination of foreign countries - 1/5/82
 influence over Poland - 1/5/82, 1/19/82
 influence over El Salvador and Nicaragua - 3/30/82
 trust in - 3/30/82
 weapons freeze - 4/6/82
War, likelihood over oil - 10/19/81
 likelihood of - 10/28/81, 11/11/81
 likelihood of foreign attack - 12/8/81
World leaders, assassination attempts - 10/19/81

IV. NATIONAL DEFENSE/MILITARY

Arms limitations, talks with USSR - 11/24/81
AWACS, approve/disapprove - 10/28/81
 effect on foreign policy - 11/11/81
Defense budget - 4/6/82
El Salvador, sending U.S. troops - 3/2/82
Foreign attack, likelihood of - 12/8/81
Jordan, sending U.S. aircraft and missiles - 3/2/82
Military draft, reinstatement of - 12/8/81
 action against evaders - 3/16/82
 likelihood of service in 1982 - 3/16/82
Nuclear war, government providing shelters - 4/6/82
 U.S. vs. USSR strength - 4/6/82
 weapons freeze - 4/6/82
Patriotism, changing views - 10/28/81
Poland, USSR influence - 1/5/82, 1/19/82
U.S. strength, 10/19/81
 versus USSR - 11/24/81

2049433614

NATIONAL DEFENSE/MILITARY (continued)

USSR, arms limitations talks - 11/24/81
Reagan/Brezhnev talks - 11/24/81
versus U.S. strength - 11/24/81, 4/6/82
domination of foreign countries - 1/5/82
influence over Poland - 1/5/82, 1/19/82
influence over El Salvador and Nicaragua - 3/30/82
trust in - 3/30/82
weapons freeze - 4/6/82
War, likelihood over oil supply - 10/19/81
likelihood of - 10/28/81, 11/11/81
likelihood of foreign attack - 12/8/81

V. ECONOMY

Budget cuts, second round - 10/7/81
 personally helped or hurt - 11/11/81
Buying, Christmas - 12/8/81
 U.S. vs. foreign-made - 12/22/81
Depression, likelihood of - 11/11/81
Economic programs, federal vs. state control - 2/16/82
Elderly, economic problems - 12/22/81
Federal budget, concern over - 3/2/82
Home mortgage rates - 4/6/82
Inflation, importance of - 10/28/81
 Reagan influence - 3/30/82
Interest rates, importance of - 10/28/81
 effect of - 11/11/81
Jobs, concern for opportunities - 10/19/81
 concern over possible loss of - 12/8/81
Reagan's programs, personally helped or hurt - 9/22/81, 10/7/81
 ability to solve problems - 12/8/81
Retirement, changing views - 12/22/81
Status in 1982 - 1/19/82
Taxes, benefits to business - 1/19/82
 income group most favored - 3/16/82
Tax laws, who gets best treatment under - 1/5/82
Unemployment, importance of - 10/28/81
 compensation requirements - 11/24/81
 concern over possibility of - 12/8/81

2049433615

VI. LABOR

Affirmative action - 2/16/82
Air controllers strike, effect on other unions - 9/22/81
 prohibition of public employee strikes - 9/22/81
 rehiring possibility - 11/24/81
Autos, causes for poor sales - 2/2/82
 U.S. vs. foreign - 2/2/82
Auto workers, benefits of job concessions - 3/16/82
Factory workers, U.S. vs. Japanese - 2/16/82
Jobs, concern for opportunities - 10/19/81
 attitudes towards - 11/11/81
 luck as a factor - 11/24/81
 concern over possible loss of - 12/8/81
Paternity leave - 12/22/81
Rags to riches via hard work, possibility of - 11/24/81
Retirement, changing views - 12/22/81
Unemployment, importance of - 10/28/81
 compensation requirements - 11/24/81
 concern over possibility of - 12/8/81
 choices of those on welfare - 2/2/82
 Reagan influence on - 3/30/82
Unions, changing views - 9/22/81
U.S. vs. foreign-made products - 12/22/81
Work week - 12/22/81

VII. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Affirmative action - 2/16/82
Autos, causes for poor sales - 2/2/82
 U.S. vs. foreign - 2/2/82
Budget cuts, second round - 10/7/81
 personally helped or hurt - 11/11/81
Christmas buying - 12/8/81
Cities, revitalization of - 1/19/82
Computers, confidence in doing business with - 1/5/82
 versus people in business - 1/5/82
Depression, likelihood of - 11/11/81
Economy, programs of Reagan, personally helped or hurt - 9/22/81, 10/7/81
 Reagan's ability to solve problems - 12/8/81
 status in 1982 - 1/19/82
Home mortgage rates - 4/6/82
Inflation, Reagan influence - 3/30/82
Interest rates, importance of - 10/28/81
 effect of - 11/11/81

2049433616

BUSINESS AND FINANCE (continued)

Jobs, concern for opportunities - 10/19/81
 luck as a factor - 11/24/81
 concern over loss of - 12/8/81
Physical appearance, as a success factor - 11/24/81
Rags to riches via hard work, possibility of - 11/24/81
Retirement, changing views - 12/22/81
Taxes, benefits to business - 1/19/82
 exemption for private schools - 2/2/82
 income group most favored - 3/16/82
 number of Americans who cheat - 3/16/82

VIII. HEALTH, MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

Calculators, effect on mathematical skills - 2/2/82
Computers, confidence in doing business with - 1/5/82
 versus people in business - 1/5/82
Life in outer space, existence of - 1/19/82
Space-shuttle, travel on - 10/19/81
Stress - 10/28/81
Weather reports, accuracy of - 2/2/82
Weight - 10/19/81

IX. MEDIA

Criminals, selling stories of acts - 3/30/82
Intelligence agents, press disclosing names - 4/6/82
Reagan, television style - 10/7/81
 coverage of - 4/6/82
Sports, video replay - 10/19/81
 T.V. vs. in-person viewing - 10/28/81
Television, Reagan's style - 10/7/81
 Video replay in sports - 10/19/81

X. EDUCATION

Athletics, college recruiting violations - 1/5/82
Bilingual programs, in public schools - 10/7/81
Calculators, effect on mathematical skills - 2/2/82
Libraries, who should select books - 3/16/82
Private schools, tax exemptions for - 2/2/82
Public education, quality of - 10/7/81
 teacher competence - 10/7/81
 concern for - 10/19/81
Quality, compared to last generation - 10/7/81
 of teachers - 10/7/81

2049433617

XI. WOMEN

Blondes, men's attraction to - 3/2/82
Clothing, dress for social occasion - 10/7/81
Dating, women calling men - 9/22/81
ERA, approve/disapprove - 12/22/81
 aiding equality - 1/5/82
Housework, husband/wife sharing - 3/2/82
Living together, as preparation for marriage - 9/22/81
Manners, toward women - 3/30/82
Marriage, changing views - 9/22/81
 living together as preparation - 9/22/81
Military draft, reinstatement of - 12/8/81
Paternity leave - 12/22/81
Salaries, husbands vs. wives - 1/19/82
Supreme Court, effect of appointment of female justice - 9/22/81
Working women, as family provider - 11/11/81
 effect on family - 11/11/81
 physical appearance as success factor - 11/24/81
 supervising men - 1/5/82

XII. PERSONAL CONCERNS AND LIFESTYLES

Academy awards, best film of 1982 - 3/16/82
 effect on film choices - 3/16/82
Airplane safety, air traffic controllers - 2/16/82
 pilots - 2/16/82
Attractiveness, to opposite sex - 10/28/81
 as a success factor - 11/24/81
Blondes, men's attraction to - 3/2/82
Changing views, marriage - 9/22/81
 cities - 10/28/81, 12/8/81
 patriotism - 10/28/81
 retirement - 12/22/81
Christmas, buying - 12/8/81
 commercialism - 12/22/81
Cities, changing views - 10/28/81, 12/8/81
 concerns about - 1/19/82
 revitalization of - 1/19/82
Clothing, dress for social occasion - 10/7/81
Communities, providing for homeless - 2/2/82
Computers, confidence in doing business with - 1/5/82
 versus people in business - 1/5/82
Computer dating services, use of - 2/2/82
Dating, women calling men - 9/22/81
Family financial outlook - 12/8/81
Family provider, mother or father - 11/11/81
 losing job - 12/8/81
 paternity leave - 12/22/81

2049433618

PERSONAL CONCERNS AND LIFESTYLES (continued)

Films, admission costs - 3/16/82
Finances, family - 12/8/81
Firearms, security provided by - 4/6/82
 use by homeowners - 4/6/82
Housework, husband/wife sharing - 3/2/82
Housing, concern for - 10/19/81
Interest rates, effect of - 11/11/81
Jobs, attitudes toward - 11/11/81
Living together, as preparation for marriage - 9/22/81
Manners, toward women - 3/30/82
Marriage, changing views - 9/22/81
 living together as preparation - 9/22/81
Mini-skirts, for or against, 4/6/82
New Year's resolutions - 12/22/81
Paternity leave - 12/22/81
Patriotism, changing views - 10/28/81
Personal attraction - 10/28/81
Rags to riches via hard work, possibility of - 11/24/81
Retirement, changing views - 12/22/81
Romance, self-description - 2/2/82
Salaries, husbands vs. wives - 1/19/82
Society, threats to - 11/11/81
Sports, attitudes toward - 10/7/81
Stress - 10/28/81
Video games, effect on teenagers - 3/2/82
Violence, personal fear of - 9/22/81, 12/8/81
Weight - 10/19/81
Working women, as family provider - 11/11/81
 effect on family - 11/11/81
 appearance as success factor - 11/24/81

XIII. CRIME AND CORRECTIONS

Assassination attempts, world leaders - 10/19/81
 Reagan, Libyan terrorists - 12/22/81
Capital punishment - 10/28/81
Crime, concern for - 10/19/81, 12/8/81
 importance of - 10/28/81
 reason for expulsion in U.S. Senate - 3/16/82
Crime rate, change in - 12/8/81
Criminals, selling stories of acts - 3/30/82
Firearms, security provided by - 4/6/82
 use by homeowners - 4/6/82
Illegal aliens, concern over - 3/2/82

2049433619

CRIME AND CORRECTIONS (continued)

Judges, sentences by - 3/2/82
Organized crime, importance of - 11/11/81
Prostitution, legalization of - 3/2/82
Rehabilitation - 9/22/81
Street crime, importance of - 11/11/81
Supreme Court, effect of appointment of female justice - 9/22/81
Terrorist organizations, control of - 2/16/82
Threats to society - 11/11/81
Violence, personal fear of - 9/22/81, 12/8/81
World leaders, assassination attempts - 10/19/81
 Reagan, Libyan terrorists - 12/22/81

XIV. SPORTS

America's national pastime - 3/30/82
Attitudes toward - 10/7/81, 10/19/81
Cost of sporting events - 1/19/82
Fan loyalty - 1/19/82
Recruiting violations among colleges/universities - 1/5/82
Reggie Jackson/New York Yankees - 2/16/82
Super Bowl - 1/19/82
Television, versus in-person viewing - 10/28/81
 video replay use in official calls - 10/19/81
Video replay, use in official calls - 10/19/81
Viewing, T.V. vs. in-person - 10/28/81

2049433620